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NEWS RELEASE

California Department
of Veterans Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2007

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CHEERFUL CROWD WITNESSES GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE VENTURA VETERANS HOME

VENTURA –In front of a couple hundred of eager witnesses, the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the community of Ventura today broke ground for the Veterans Home of California, Ventura. Many veterans, both local and from throughout the state, turned out in mass to witness this historic event.

"Today is a great day because we broke ground for constructing the Veterans Home of California, Ventura, thus making the dream of so many veterans a reality," said Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs Roger Brautigan. "This veteran home is the product of cooperation on so many levels and the result of hard work by many folks laboring in local, state, and federal organizations."

Today's ceremony included the participation of local, state, and federal elected officials, the U.S. Navy Honor Guard, a flyover by the Commemorative Air Force, and a keynote address by the Honorable Jack O'Connell, Superintendent of Education for California.

A very unique moment took place when Julie Tumamait and Raudell Banuelos of the Saticoy Chumash offered a traditional Chumash Blessing during the ceremony.

The Veterans Home of California, Ventura will provide 60 beds where Residential Care for the Elderly (RCFE) will be offered to admitted veterans. Members who are age 62 and older may voluntarily admit themselves to this level of care with verification of their need for assistance with such activities as bathing, dining, and or taking their own medications. These members are also offered transportation to medical appointments and community activities. Typically, these members are active and mobile, and are encouraged to do as much as possible for themselves within the context of RCFE care.

Also available at the Veterans Home of California, Ventura will be an Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Program with room for up to 50 members daily. The ADHC center provides a therapeutic environment designed to restore the veteran's capacity for self-care, and to delay or prevent placement in a Skilled Nursing Facility. To participate in the ADHC program, the veteran must have live-in support of family or friends and must have a plan to graduate from the program to resume an independent lifestyle at home.

Attn: News Editors – Color renderings of the Veterans Home of California, Ventura are available by email by contacting Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.

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